

IV.—On some newly described Birds-of-Paradise, and some Undescribed Eggs of the same Group. By the Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD, Ph.D.

(Plate II.)

SINCE my paper "On recently described Paradiseidæ" (see 'Ibis,' 1911, pp. 350-367) was written, I have received a fine collection made by Mr. A. S. Meek on the Eilanden River and Mount Goliath in Central New Guinea. In it was a series of Birds-of-Paradise of more than ordinary interest. For in addition to two new forms, it contained examples of no less than four species described from trade-skins, and of which the exact *habitat* was unknown before. Unfortunately Mr. Meek's collecting trip was carried out during the wrong season of the year, *i. e.* between December and March, so that the larger number of Birds-of-Paradise were in full moult. In spite of this, however, his collection is in fine order, and it enables us to give definitely the true *habitats* in Central New Guinea of *Pteridophora alberti* Meyer, *Loboparadisea sericea* Rothsch., *Astrapia splendidissima* Rothsch., and *Parotia carolæ carolæ* Meyer.

The description of the two new species is as follows:—

PARADIGALLA BREVICAUDA. (Plate II.)

P. brevicauda Rothschild & Hartert, Nov. Zool. xviii. pp. 159, 160 (1911).

♂ ad. The colour is practically identical with that of *P. carunculata* Less., being velvety black, with the head, nape and foreneck dark metallic green, almost olive-green. The whole back and scapulars are glossed with oily green; this is not visible in most skins of *P. carunculata*, but in one skin in the Tring Museum it is as much developed as in the majority of my series of *P. brevicauda*.

The median and greater upper wing-coverts are glossed with green, and the secondaries have sharply defined outer edges of dark golden green, which colour is also present on the distal portions of the inner webs, while the primaries are

of a glossless black. These green outer edges to the secondaries are mostly duller or else purplish in our skins of *P. carunculata*, but too much weight ought not to be laid on this difference, for while our specimens of *P. brevicauda* are all fresh well-made skins, those of *P. carunculata* are old and remade. The great and striking difference between this recently described species and *P. carunculata* is the short, straight, and somewhat emarginate tail, having the central rectrices slightly shorter, while the tail in the latter is long and cuneiform, the middle tail-feathers exceeding the lateral ones by 60–65 mm. A very peculiar fact, distinctly showing the line of evolution, is, that the young birds of *P. brevicauda* have the tail longer than the adults, *i. e.* 35 to 40 mm. longer. The first two primaries are less attenuated and less sharply pointed, and the third is comparatively longer than in *P. carunculata*. Wing 154.5–160 mm.; tail 51–54 mm. (against 170–180 mm. in *P. carunculata*); bill from end of nasal tufts 25–26 mm.; metatarsus 47 mm.

♀ ad. Resembles the male, but the crown of the head is not so strongly glossed, and the back has hardly any greenish gloss.

Young birds resemble the female, only the colour is duller and more brownish, *the tail longer*, and the wattles shorter.

“Iris dark brown, feet dark vandyke brown, bill black. The lappets on the upper mandible (and the small hidden wattles at the base of the lower) are creamy yellow, the rugose wattle-like skin near the base of the lower mandible cobalt blue.”

Habitat. Mount Goliath, Central New Guinea, at elevations of not less than 5000 feet (A. S. Meek coll.).

FALCINELLUS STRIATUS ATRATUS.

F. striatus atratus Rothschild & Hartert, Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 160 (1911).

♂ ad. Differs from the adult male of *Falcinellus striatus striatus* in being black instead of deep brown on the under surface, and in the tips of the lower ornamental side plumes being steel-blue instead of more or less bronzy green. The beak is slightly larger, especially thicker; this is most apparent in the females.

♀. Like that of *F. s. striatus*, but the upper surface, especially the tail, is more olive, less rufous, and the crown generally somewhat darker rufous.

Habitat. Mt. Goliath, Central New Guinea, at an elevation of not less than 5000 feet (A. S. Meek coll.).

Since the article by Dr. Ernst Hartert "On the Eggs of the Paradiseidae," in Nov. Zool. xvii. pp. 484-491 (1910), Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, in the current number of the present journal, is figuring and describing some hitherto unfigured and undescribed eggs of Paradise-Birds, but the following two have, so far as I know, not yet been described, though I mentioned them in my previous article in a footnote:—

ASTRAPIA ROTHSCHILDI.

Astrapia rothschildi Foerster.

The eggs of *Astrapia* are of a similar type to those of true *Paradisea*, but have a less glossy surface, while the underlying shell markings are more numerous. The blotches and streaks are also wider and less elongated. Ground-colour of the egg in the Tring Museum pinkish cinnamon with a number of pale liver-brown blotches at the larger end, a number of underlying lavender streaks all over the surface, and one or two larger and darker round the centre. A second specimen belonging to Professor Foerster has a somewhat paler ground-colour. Length 37 mm.; breadth 28.5 mm.

Rawlinson Mts., German New Guinea (Keysser coll.).

PARADISEA GULIELMI Cab.

The two eggs in the Tring Museum (which the collector states are a clutch) are so different one from the other that I am almost certain that they are eggs of two different individuals. As, however, *P. augusta-victoriae* and *P. minor finschi* are not found so high up in the mountains as where these eggs were taken, there is little doubt that they are both really eggs of *P. guillemi*. These eggs differ at a glance from those of the two other above-mentioned forms of *Paradisea* in that the longitudinal streaks are much thinner and more widely separated.

